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OCT 25 2005

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No. 09/286,822  
 Filing Date 4/05/99  
 Inventorship Grate et al.  
 Assignee Microsoft Corporation  
 Group Art Unit 2142  
 Examiner D. Blair  
 Confirmation No. 5476  
 Attorney's Docket No. MS1-305US  
 Title: E-Commerce System and Method for Automated Configuration of Trading Relationships

To: Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

From: Emmanuel A. Rivera (Tel. 509-324-9256; Fax 509-323-8979)  
 Customer No. 22801

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF AUGUST 24, 2005

Sir:

In response to the Office Action (the Action) of August 24, 2005, the response is provided as follows:

The listing of the claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.

Please Enter -DBB